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**Elder Law Section
Connecticut Bar Association**

In SUPPORT OF:

**H.B. 6155, Reduce Contribution for State-Funded Home Care Program
H.B. 775, Increase Eligibility for State-Funded Home Care Program
H.B. 5499, Assisted Living Pilot Projects
S.B. 774, Increase Eligibility for Alzheimer's Respite Care Program**

**Committee on Aging
February 1, 2011**

My name is Stephen Allaire. I am an elder law practitioner and my office is in Bristol, CT. I am a member and former officer of the Elder Law Section of the Connecticut Bar Association, which consists of over 500 attorneys who work on a daily basis with the needs of the elderly in the State of Connecticut. At least two thirds of my practice is devoted to getting the care to keep people at home and out of nursing homes

The Elder Law Section supports legislation that would increase the availability of home and community based services for the elderly and for individuals under 65 whose care is supported through the many Medicaid waivers and programs we have in Connecticut.

The Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders is an excellent Medicaid waiver program, as is the state-funded home care program. Therefore, we support HB 6155 because it would reduce the monthly contribution for services from 6% to 4%, which has been a disincentive for seniors to apply for necessary home care services, and SB 775, which would increase the asset limits for individuals applying for the State Funded home care programs from two hundred percent of the community spouse protected amount to \$75,000 for an individual and \$100,000 for a married couple.

Furthermore, the assisted-living pilot program has been on a waitlist for a couple of years; these caps on program availability for those desiring to live at home or in a similar community setting cause many Connecticut residents to seek their care in an institution at a time when money is tighter than ever before. We support HB 5499, which would increase the number of slots from 75 to 150 individuals.

We also support SB 774, which would increase the income eligibility cap for individual with Alzheimer's disease.

- Overwhelmingly, our seniors prefer to age in place and avoid institutionalization. Our greatest generation deserves no less.
- Likewise, our residents with disabilities, under age 65, prefer to receive services in the community and thus avoid institutionalization.
- Providing care in homes and in our communities saves Connecticut